

**31st ALNAP  
Annual Meeting  
Concept note**

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14–15 February 2017,  
Stockholm, Sweden

+ ALNAP Members Day  
16 February



# Changing Humanitarian Action?



## We live in times of profound change

This has had a great impact on humanitarian needs, and the approaches taken to meet these needs. Changes in technology, ecology, politics, economics and demographics have shaped, and will continue to shape, humanitarian action.

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### Why are ALNAP Members meeting to discuss this topic?

The humanitarian 'system', and many of the organisations which participate in it, were largely creations of the 20th century: the years that immediately followed World War II and the subsequent period of decolonisation and 'Cold War'. Since then, many initiatives have attempted to adapt and change the system, with varying degrees of success. At the same time, unplanned and unanticipated changes have occurred. These have altered the structures and processes of humanitarian action, often in response to external factors.

Many humanitarians and observers of humanitarian action have suggested that these change initiatives have been unambitious and unsuccessful. Indeed

many people think that the humanitarian system is unable, or unwilling, to make the changes that are required to remain effective and relevant in a rapidly changing world. This criticism was most recently expressed during the World Humanitarian Summit, where participants described the system as 'broken', and proposed a broad range of changes to fix it.

As so many stakeholders have made commitments to significant changes, it seems time to ask whether the system can change, and if so, how? As a network which exists to support change and improvement, it seems appropriate that ALNAP meets to consider how change occurs in the humanitarian system, and how it can be done better.

## What will the meeting cover?

In collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), ALNAP will convene a two-day conference on the theme of Change in Humanitarian Action on the 14 and 15 February 2017. The meeting will be open to all interested parties, with priority allocation of tickets for ALNAP Member organisations.

### Some of the questions that we expect to discuss are:

- How good or bad is the humanitarian system at change?
- How do we understand change? How do our mental models affect how we try to change the system?
- Are certain types of change more likely to be successful than others?
- Can you ever plan or manage change?
- Does the humanitarian system actively change, or do changes generally happen to it?
- What are the constraints to change?
- Which factors seem to support change?

### The meeting will include:

- Presentations and panels
- Intensive plenary and small group discussions
- Stories of change
- An 'agora' of change initiatives

### Key themes might include:

- Changing power dynamics: successes and challenges related to accountability, gender and localisation
- Changing the location of humanitarian action: how successfully has humanitarian action changed to protect and respond in cities? In migration crises in G20 states?

- Changing the way we respond: What do we learn from changes related to cash programming? To DRR and resilience? To early warning and response?
- Changing funding and structures: the Transformative Agenda; the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, pooled funds
- Different approaches to making change happen: evaluation, research and learning, standards, innovation, certification
- Integrating big global changes: information technology, medical advances, WASH / Shelter technology

The conference will be preceded by a meeting of evaluators from the ALNAP Network, and will be followed by a 'Members Day', for discussion of topics of interest to the ALNAP Membership. This third day is open to individuals from ALNAP Member organisations only.

<b>Monday 13 February</b>	Pre-Meeting day: Evaluators' day
<b>Tuesday 14 February</b> 08:30 - 17:30	Changing Humanitarian Action? Day 1
<b>Wednesday 15 February</b> 08:30 - 17:30	Changing Humanitarian Action? Day 2
<b>Thursday 16 February</b> 09:00 - 16:30	Members Day (For individuals from ALNAP Member organisations)

## How can I take part?

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The meeting will be open to all staff of ALNAP Member agencies. As places at the Meeting are limited, each ALNAP Member agency will be guaranteed at least two places. The Secretariat will try to accommodate Members who wish to send more than two people. A limited number of places will also be available for external participants.

**The deadline for registration is 8 Dec.**

Participants will be requested to pay a conference fee: these fees partially

contribute to the costs of the Meeting. ALNAP also has a limited amount of funding available to assist attendance at the meeting.

If you'd like to register, or to request more information about fees or funding, please write to [events@alnap.org](mailto:events@alnap.org)

ALNAP will feature 'Story in 5' and the 'Agora' again this year. You can find more information on how to apply to these [annual meeting webpage](#).

## Want to keep up to date with our Annual Meeting updates?

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Information on registration and submission of proposals for the 'Story in Five' and the 'Agora' are available on the [annual meeting webpage](#). You can also find information on Twitter, Facebook, and

through our email updates. If you have any questions about the Evaluators' day, please contact our Research Officer, Alexandra Warner by writing to [a.warner@alnap.org](mailto:a.warner@alnap.org)

➔ **We look forward to seeing you in Stockholm!**





[www.alnap.org/31AM](http://www.alnap.org/31AM)